



Announcement: The Kennedy-Lugar Youth Exchange and Study (YES) FY – 2013-14

The American Center of the U.S. Embassy, Dhaka, is pleased to announce the Kennedy-Lugar Youth Exchange and Study (YES) Program for the academic year of 2013-14.

K-L YES program is a high school exchange program sponsored by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs and is administered in Bangladesh by iEARN-BD. The program enables Bangladeshi high school students to spend one academic year at an American high school. Students live with host families, attend classes, learn about American society and values, acquire leadership skills, participate in community service activities, and help educate Americans about Bangladesh's culture. K-L YES students will develop relationships with their American peers based on mutual interests and respect for one another as individuals, while dismissing assumptions and stereotypes based solely on an individual's nationality or ethnic origin.

The International Education and Resource Network - Bangladesh (iEARN-BD) facilitates the YES program in Bangladesh with support of the U.S. Embassy-Dhaka. iEARN-BD is a nonprofit organization dedicated towards better education, sustainable life and peace in Bangladesh.

The Kennedy-Lugar YES Program was commenced on 2004 in Bangladesh. Since then, 215 Bangladeshi students participated in the YES program. In recognition of their community service activities in the United States, many YES participants have been awarded Presidential Volunteer Service Awards. Upon their return to Bangladesh, YES alumni have actively engaged in community service activities through the YES alumni club as well as through other service organizations.

YES participants enroll as full-time students in American high schools while living with an American host family. It is an intensive academic program with the purpose to provide high school student leaders with a deeper understanding of the United States, while simultaneously enhancing their leadership skills. The program is consisted of coursework, classroom activities, sports will be complemented by educational travel around the United States, local site visits, and volunteer opportunities. They experience the American high school environment; interact with American teachers and students. Students also become active members of the school and community by participating in extracurricular activities, volunteer projects, and local community events.

The participants are expected to be highly motivated and exemplary high school students from eight,

nine, ten and eleven grades.

To be eligible to apply for the K-L YES program, interested candidates must:

- be Bangladesh citizens between and not dual citizens or permanent residents of the U.S., or any other country.
- 15 and 17 years of age, have date of birth between August 1, 1996 to August, 1, 1998
- be currently enrolled secondary school students in good standing in grades 8 –11.
- be proficient in written and spoken English at a level sufficient to engage in high school-level courses.
- have B grade averages without any failing marks.
- be able to accurately present Bangladeshi culture in American schools and communities.
- be committed to returning to Bangladesh upon completion of the program.
- have demonstrated leadership skills.
- have had little or no prior study or travel experience in the United States or elsewhere outside of their home country;
- be willing and able to fully participate in an intensive academic program, community service, and educational travel.
- be able to adapt to American high school life, prepared to live with a host family, and able to adjust to cultural and social Practices different than those in Bangladesh.
- be mature, responsible, independent, confident, open-minded, tolerant, thoughtful and inquisitive;
- be willing and able to fully participate in an intensive academic program, community service, and educational travel program; and,
- be comfortable with campus life, prepared to share living accommodations, and able to make adjustments to cultural and social practices different from those of their home country.

Eligible applicants must meet the U.S. visa eligibility requirements. In addition, students' health records will be reviewed by U.S. medical team to ensure that they are sufficiently healthy to participate in the program.

The recruitment process will include the following steps:

Step 1

Preliminary Application on or before: 29 November 2012

Please submit your application on or before November 29, 2012 through online or submit the hard copy of application in person or send by courier service to the iERAN-BD's office.

Step 2

YES SMS on or before: 10 December 2012

Shortlisted candidates will receive SMS from sender "iEARN-BD". The SMS will contain quiz questions. Applicants must reply to the quiz question otherwise they might not be called to take SLEP test & In-Class Essay.

The number for replying to the SMS quiz is 0176837 3829.

Step 3

SLEP Test & In-Class Essay (Test Date: 21 December 2012)

- Short listed candidates will sit for SLEP test and In-Class Essay after the initial screening based upon the SMS replies.
- SLEP (Secondary Level English Proficiency) test: SLEP helps to measure the level of proficiency in English for young students. There are two parts in the test; Reading and Listening. Students will have to answer Multiple Choice Questions in the test.
- In-Class Essay: Students will also have to write 3 essays in the test. They will get 20 minutes to complete each essays.

Step 4

Final Application & Interview

- Students who will get the desired score in SLEP test & In-Class essay will be asked to submit the final application on or before **January 17, 2013**. Students will be informed about the final application process if they qualify.
- Students, who will submit the final applications, will be called for interviews. There are two parts in the interview; individual and group interviews.

You will find the application form and announcement at the following websites:

http://dhaka.usembassy.gov/educational_cultural_exchanges.html

<http://www.earnbd.org/>

The deadline for submission of completed applications to iEARN-BD is **Thursday, November 29, 2012.** Application will not be accepted in later dates.

The location of the iEARN-BD is below:

Address: 211 Hassen Uddin Road (3rd Floor),

North Badda, Dhaka-1212, Bangladesh

phone: 880 1718 208 668

E-mail: yesinfo@earnbd.org ; info@earnbd.org

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